LATVIA TO DEPORT SOME ASIAN REFUGEES TO RUSSIA. The Latvian Interior Ministry on 26 April said that 16 Asian refugees who entered Latvia illegally would be deported to Russia. Eight of them were among the more than 100 refugees whom Latvia unsuccessfully tried to deport in March. Their long detention in two railroad cars attracted international attention, forcing Latvia to transfer them to a make-shift detention center. The other eight were arrested in various places, including Riga's sprawling central market. Latvia says it has documents proving that all the refugees arrived from Russia. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

VILNIUS, April 26 (Reuter) - A classic set-piece free kick from Parma's Gianfranco Zola in the 12th minute gave Italy a 1-0 victory over Lithuania in their European championship group four qualifier on Wednesday. The win kept Italy firmly in second place in the group. In a lively match, which built into a dynamic and flowing second half, the Italians displayed superior technical skills and strength in the air but the Lithuanians fought hard to prevent further losses before a noisy home crowd.

Though he complemented the physically-strong Lithuanian team, coach Arrigo Sacchi also criticised the referee for letting pass some tackles ``you would hardly see in Italy." Lithuanian coach Benjaminas Zelkevicius, who had planned to stifle Italy with a mixture of aggression and close midfield marking, said his side deserved a draw for their overall play. But he was annoyed that his defence had dropped their guard during a set-piece his side should have been ready for.

That's all the news we have from abroad, so we'll now move on to items of interest here in Northeast Ohio…

Upcoming events…

This afternoon at 4:00 p.m. at OLPH church auditorium the Lithuanian girl scout auxiliary organization Zidinys will sponsor a fashion show entitled Karta Pavasri. Beautiful Lithuanian women will be modeling spring fashions from a chic Beachwood boutique. A special invitation is extended to our male listeners, who may be less than excited about this event. Come on out and spend an enjoyable afternoon and help a good Lithuanian cause at the same time.